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RUNCORN RURAL DISTRICT

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Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Year ending 31st December

1955

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RURAL DISTRICT AUTHORITY OF RUNCORN

ANNUAL REPORT

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by

**E. N. HILLMAN GRAY, L.R.C.P. & S., L.M., D.P.H.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
RUNCORN URBAN AND RURAL DISTRICTS**

OFFICIALS OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT :

- (1) Medical Officer of Health, Runcorn Urban and Rural Districts**
- (2) Divisional Medical Officer of Health
Divisional School Medical Officer (Runcorn Division)**

**E. N. HILLMAN GRAY, L.R.C.P. & S., L.M., D.P.H.
Tel. No.: Frodsham 2186**

Sanitary Inspectors and Meat and Food Inspectors :

**D. BOOTHMAN, M.S.I.A., Senior Sanitary Inspector
National Certificate in Building
Certified Sanitary Inspector (R.S.I. and S.I.E.J.B.)
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Offices: Public Health Department, Castle Park, Frodsham.
Tel. No.: Frodsham 2186
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Tel. No.: Stockton Heath 1024
Residence Tel. No.: Frodsham 2219**

**G. F. SIXSMITH, Additional Sanitary Inspector
Certified Sanitary Inspector (R.S.I. and S.I.E.J.B.)
Certified Inspector of Meat and other Foods (R.S.I.)
Housing Management Certificate (The Institute of Housing)
Diploma in General Hygiene Advanced (R.I.P.H. & H.)
Residence Tel. No.: Warrington 714**

Clerk/Pupil Sanitary Inspectors :

**E. H. PEET, Certified Sanitary Inspector (R.S.I. and S.I.E.J.B.)
November, 1954; resigned April, 1955
G. W. BATE
R. M. CAMERON, appointed August, 1955**

Clerical Duties :

MRS. D. COWAP

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AN APPEAL TO ALL CONCERNED, ESPECIALLY TO VOLUNTARY SOCIETIES, IS AGAIN MADE TO MAKE FULL USE OF THIS REPORT; DISCUSSION GROUPS, ETC., IN HEALTH EDUCATION SHOULD BE ARRANGED FOR IN THE INTERESTS OF PUBLIC HEALTH AT FREQUENT INTERVALS.

SPECIAL ATTENTION IS DRAWN TO “THE COMMONSENSE PREVENTATIVE MEASURES AGAINST DISEASE”.

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF RUNCORN, 1955

From 24th May, 1955

Chairman of the Council:

COUNCILLOR HARRY JACKSON, J.P.

Vice-Chairman of the Council:

COUNCILLOR WILLIAM H. CAPPER, J.P.

Health Committee:

COUNCILLOR R. E. PAYTON, C.C., *Chairman*

COUNCILLOR MRS. J. A. GLOVER, *Vice-Chairman*

Councillor D.St. G. H. CLARKE Councillor H. HILL

„ D. L. DAVIES	„ J. HUNT
„ Mrs. K. I. DEWES	„ J. W. KIRKHAM
„ H. R. DONE	„ T. L. LOOKER
„ H. HELSBY	„ Mrs. E. STANSFIELD, J.P.

Councillor G. WILLIAMS

and Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council

OFFICERS:

Solicitor/Clerk of the Council:

Mr. R. PATRICK WILLIAMS, Frodsham

Engineer and Surveyor:

Mr. B. PRESTON, B.Sc., A.M.I.C.E., M.I.Mun.E., M.R.San.I.,
Frodsham

INTRODUCTION

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF RUNCORN

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my 18th Annual Report for the year-
ending 31st December, 1955.

Population: There is an increase of 550 in the Registrar General's estimate of
the total population from 36,260 in 1954 to 36,810 in 1955. (Population 1938 was
31,790.)

Birth Rate: The birth rate per thousand of the population showed a slight
decrease being 13.36 in 1955 by comparison of 13.59 in 1954. (Birth rate 1938 was
13.06).

Death Rate: The death rate for 1955 was 11.49 per thousand of the population
compared with 12.58 in 1954. The total number of deaths in the Runcorn Rural
District in 1955 was 423 compared with 410 in 1954. (Death rate 1938 was 12.2.)
Your special attention is drawn to the detailed table on page 36 which gives the
deaths from various diseases (e.g. Coronary Thrombosis, etc.) shown in age
groups and sex.

Infantile Mortality Rate: The death rate of all infants under one year of age
per thousand live births was 14.22 as compared with 24.34 in 1954. (1938=41.0
(17 deaths)). This is a striking reduction due to all round better Public Health
measures, Government and Local. N.B. Welfare Centres (*Health Visitors*) and
better housing conditions.

Incidence of Infectious Disease: The incidence of infectious disease was higher
than the previous year mostly due to measles. 406 cases of infectious disease
were notified as compared with 355 during 1954. (Cases notified in 1938 were 262
of which 135 were diphtheria notifications 18% immunised).

N.B. In the cases of Diphtheria the striking reduction in notifications since
1938 has, in my considered opinion been due to Diphtheria Immunisation. There
have been no cases of diphtheria notified locally during the past 5 years (84%
immunised). This means that to prevent diphtheria, immunisation must be
continued; *at least* 85% of children must be properly immunised for this.

“THE COMMONSENSE PREVENTIVE MEASURES AGAINST DISEASE”

Immediately following this introduction are my “Commonsense Preventative
Measures Against Disease”, which I strongly recommend should be read by all
concerned and action taken as recommended. It is well circulated.

In my opinion the Food Section of the Ministry of Health can with a *very*
close liason with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, do much to
keep our food more natural so keeping a *natural* vitamin (vitamins protect
against disease), value without too much preservatives etc., etc., which could
cause ill health.

Housing: The number of applications for Council houses was 842 at the end
of the year under review.

The number of houses owned by the Council at the end of the year was 1,301;
total number of new houses erected by the Council during the year was 138. The
total number of inhabited houses as at 31st December 1955, was 11,571.

Unfit Houses: My Council have forwarded to the appropriate Ministry as
proposed a Five Year Plan to deal with 270 unfit houses.

Sanitary Circumstances in the Area: The details under this section have been
compiled by Mr. D. Boothman, M.S.I.A., Senior Sanitary Inspector.

ANNUAL REPORT — DIVISIONAL MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH for the year ending 31st December, 1955:

(by agreement with the Cheshire County Council and my local Council) — this Report is included as an "Appendix A" and attached hereto.

The co-operation and help of all concerned outside my offices, in the Public Health Department and other Departments has been greatly appreciated by me in the carrying out of my various duties.

Yours obediently,
E. N. HILLMAN GRAY,
L.R.C.P. & S., L.M. D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health

IMPORTANT

THE COMMON SENSE PREVENTIVE MEASURES AGAINST DISEASE

- (1) **CLEANLINESS.** (a) This **must** be thorough in or around the house, kitchen, shop, larder, etc. (This also applies to feeding bottles and teats.)

WHY? Where these are **absolutely** clean there are few, if any, disease germs. Feeding bottles and teats **must** be thoroughly washed and boiled prior to use. If in doubt ask your Public Health Department, Welfare Centre, Health Visitor, or District Nurse.

(b) This also applies to those who handle and cook food, especially the hands and nails.

WHY? Dirt (with disease germs) may be on the hands or **under the nails** and so spread disease germs to food; **always** thoroughly wash the hands and **clean under the nails** after using the lavatory.

- (2) **DESTRUCTION OF FLIES, RATS AND MICE.**

(a) **FLIES:** Any dirt, faeces, manure, etc., **in which flies breed** must be disposed of quickly and thoroughly (burying and **well covering** these with earth is one of the best ways). Flies should be destroyed by, e.g., fly sprays, fly swats, fly papers, etc., and food larders, pail closets, and bins **must** be fly proof. Food **must** be protected from dust, dirt, flies, rats and mice, and kept in a cool well ventilated place. Disinfectant solution **must** be used to **cover** contents in pail closets.

WHY? Flies **carry** disease germs (in and on their bodies) from all kinds of dirt to food, and so spread diseases.

(b) **RATS AND MICE:** For the destruction of these ask your chemist; failing this your Sanitary Inspector (who is also the Rodent Officer).

WHY? Rats and mice breed in all kinds of dirt, and like flies carry disease germs to food (and water).

- (3) **FOOD** should be **properly** heat treated; this applies especially to the manufacture of ice cream, the cooking of shell-fish, and the pasteurisation and sterilization of milk. Where milk is not pasteurised or sterilized I recommend that this is boiled at home.

WHY? By proper heat treatment, any disease germs present are destroyed. This applies to all kinds of food, including ice cream, shell-fish and milk.

- (4) **WATERCRESS** must be obtained from properly controlled beds, that is, where pure water is supplied; **this with lettuce and fruits** without a fairly thick outside coat, should be thoroughly washed in a weak Condyl's solution and then rinsed with pure water before being eaten.

WHY? Watercress can carry disease germs on it; this also applies to lettuce and fruit.

- (5) **DRIED EGGS AND DRIED MILK** must be kept in a cool place, and when the package is opened it should be used up quickly.
 WHY? These are good foods, but if the containers are left open to the air too long (e.g., over two days) germs can grow in them and so spread disease.
- (6) **ALL WATER FOR DRINKING, DIETETIC OR DAIRY PURPOSES** should be from a pure supply; if in doubt as to its purity, boil it well for small quantities, or chlorinate it for large quantities—see instructions on bottles obtainable from most chemists. **Do not bathe in rivers, etc.**, which may be sewage polluted.
 WHY? Water, if impure, can have disease germs in it; boiling or chlorination kills disease germs. If you bathe in rivers, canals, etc., which may be sewage polluted, you may swallow disease germs.
- (7) **CONSTIPATION.** This *must* be avoided, for example, by eating sufficient roughage food, e.g., whole-meal bread and vegetables also by keeping the stomach muscles strong and healthy by games and P.T. exercises. If in doubt see your own doctor. Many diseases might be traced to chronic constipation.
 WHY? If constipated, foul matter remains too long in the lower bowel so poisoning the blood and also holding disease germs in the bowel which may infect the body.
- (8) (a) **TO AVOID SPREADING “COLDS IN THE HEAD”, INFLUENZA, etc.** Use a handkerchief when you cough or sneeze.
 WHY? A handkerchief acts as a screen and so catches disease germs from the nose and throat. Disinfect and boil handkerchiefs well prior to washing. Wet feet, wet clothes, and draughts cause chilling of the body and so render it more liable to disease.
 (b) **COVERING UP THE MOUTH WHEN COUGHING OR SNEEZING.** Coughing or sneezing on *food*, for example, after influenza, etc., may cause a serious attack of e.g., enteritis, diarrhoea, etc., especially in babies and young children.
 WHY? Because germs causing *serious* disease enter on or into food . . . **DO NOT COUGH OR SNEEZE** onto food: cover the mouth and nose with a handkerchief or etc., See your own doctor as required for treatment.
- (9) **ALLERGIC DISEASES.** The diseases for example, Migraine, Hayfever, Asthma, some types of Eczema (especially in children) due to allergy, cause much *unnecessary* suffering; by seeing a Doctor (tests, etc.) many of these can be cured or relieved; this also applies to contact “Dermatitis”.
- (10) **PROTECTIVE INJECTIONS AGAINST DIPHTHERIA, SMALL-POX, etc.** See that all (especially young children) have these as required.
 WHY? By these injections the body is more fully protected against dangerous diseases. If in doubt ask your own doctor, Medical Officer of Health, Welfare Centre, Health Visitor, or District Nurse.
- (11) **PROPER DISINFECTION OF HOUSES, etc.** After any serious disease in a house, etc., see that this is carried out (ask your Public Health Department, Sanitary Inspector), **also a thorough “spring-cleaning”**. The latter would be sufficient in less serious diseases such as Influenza, Measles and Whooping Cough.
 WHY? By this, disease germs are destroyed or washed away and so cannot infect others.
- (12) **ISOLATION OF CONTACTS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.** Carry out thoroughly what is recommended on the special pamphlet issued by the Medical Officer of Health when patients are sent to hospital or nursed at home.
 WHY? By so doing disease germs are less likely to spread. If in doubt ask your own doctor or Public Health Department (e.g., your Sanitary Inspector). This also applies to any sick animals (indoors or outdoors); if in doubt call in a Veterinary Officer.

- (13) **DEFECTIVE TEETH.** See your dentist if your teeth are bad or septic; better still see him as a routine every six months.
WHY? If your teeth are bad or septic the chewing powers are not good and so all kinds of indigestion may arise. Septic teeth (and gums) lead to poisoning of the blood and so to various diseases.

- (14) **THE PREVENTIVE FOODS.** Eat some of these daily in your daily diet which **must** be properly cooked, varied **and** flavoured.

WHY? The preventive foods (i.e., those which help the body to prevent disease) are:—

Milk and eggs (dried or ordinary);
 Cheese;
 Fresh vegetables and fruit (cooked or in salads);
 Animal fats, e.g., fish (especially herrings), and butter;
 Margarine (vitaminised).
 Whole meal bread

These all contain valuable substances called **VITAMINS** which are *essential* to good health. Where these essential foods are in short supply, etc., all concerned are reminded that extracts of these vitamins are contained in e.g., Rose Hip Juice and/or Ribena, Marmite, Yeast, certain tablets (all vitamins). *Parents are recommended to bottle or preserve fruit when it is cheap.*

- (15) **OBESITY (over-weight):** How can this be the cause of many serious diseases and can shorten life . . . ?

WHY? By “clogging-up” of the blood vessels, the various organs of the body, disease can commence. By eating less fat and starchy foods at each meal, with more variety and taking, for example, small quantities of milk or sweets between meals, less fat, etc., will enter the body. Moderate, regular daily exercise, e.g., a walk, will help to “burn-up” fat. Guard against constipation. If in doubt see your own doctor.

- (16) **RETIREMENT, Semi-RETIREMENT and OLD AGE:** (also secondary employment in youth).

Question: What should one do to prepare for these (the proper use of leisure)?

Answer: As early as possible, and as necessary, seek the guidance first of, for example, your Medical Officer of Health, and/or Health Visitor, who will (acting in a “guidance service”) refer you to other agencies—official and voluntary.

Remember *Old Age* is a *normal state*, but the diseases associated with it are not; see your own doctor as required, so that not only years can be added to life, but life can be added to years.

Loneliness, boredom and monotony *must* be dealt with by using the brain and body—for example, with hobbies of all kinds, other employment, etc. . . . See your own padre as required.

EVERYDAY is a **BIRTHDAY** and **EVERYDAY** we are born anew.

Younger persons working a 4 to 5 day week should in the same way as above, prepare for a new world of *secondary employment* (owing to for example, automation, the atomic age)—for this see your Ministry of Labour—Youth Employment Department, or, as above, your Medical Officer of Health and/or the Health Visitor. Ask your local Education Office, for under the Education Act, 1944, any subject (theory or practice) can be taught to *any* person at a very small cost to the person per week. Finally—**EARN HAPPINESS BY GIVING.**

GENERAL

- (1) Anyone feeling ill should see their own doctor (better still, as a routine, see him once a year)—though with the above common-sense precautions there should be little danger of contacting or spreading disease.
- (2) ASK FOR MORE OF THESE PAMPHLETS AS REQUIRED FROM YOUR MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH. Have discussion groups, lectures and films on health education. Attend the official classes on personal hygiene given by, e.g., the Red Cross Society, St. John Association, Scouts and Girl Guides—these organisations have excellent little books on the subject. Always carry out these common-sense preventive measures and *tell others about them*.
- (3) Good health mostly depends on YOU—your co-operation is essential.

“WHERE THERE IS DIRT THERE IS DISEASE”

E. N. HILLMAN GRAY, L.R.C.P.&S., L.M., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health, Runcorn Urban & Rural Districts.
Divisional Medical Officer and School Medical Officer.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENTS:

1. Town Hall, Runcorn.
2. Castle Park, Frodsham.

N.B. PLEASE KEEP THIS PAMPHLET FOR EASY REFERENCE

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

(a)	Area (in acres)	....	....	....	....	45,552
(b)	Estimated population (Registrar-General)	....	....			36,810
(c)	Number of inhabited houses (end 1955) according to the Rate Book	....	....	....	....	11,571
(d)	Rateable value of the District (end 1955)	....	....			£244,442
(e)	Sum represented by one penny rate (approx.)	Net				£949
(f)	Density of Population. Number of persons per acre (estimated population)	....	....	....	....	1.23
(g)	Average number of persons per inhabited house (estimated population)	....	....	....	....	3.17

Social Conditions

Agriculture and dairy farming are the chief industries of the district; other industries are tanneries, electric cable, electric fittings, steel tube works, wire works, flour mills and jam works. Sand quarrying is being carried on in the district, chiefly at Whitley and Moore.

Parts of the district are mainly residential.

Unemployment.—Exact statistics are not available for this area as the figures obtained by the local offices of the Ministry of Labour related to the areas served by such offices and these areas are not identical with the Runcorn Rural District. The incidence of unemployment, however, was low in the area.

Many of the inhabitants are employed in industrial areas outside the district.

Children's Homes.—There is a National Children's Home at Frodsham (180 children), one open-air Convalescent School for Jewish Children at Norley.

VITAL STATISTICS

			<i>Total</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
Live Births—Legitimate	....	....	477	251	226
Illegitimate	....	....	15	11	4
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
			492	262	230
Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	....				13.36

			<i>Total</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>
Still Births—Legitimate	....	....	9	4	5
Illegitimate	....	....	0	0	0
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
			9	4	5

Rate of Still Births per 1,000 total (Live and Still births): 17.96.

Deaths 423 204 219

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 11.49

Deaths from Puerperal Causes

(Heading 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List):

No. 30 Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.....Nil

Death Rate of Infants Under One Year of Age

All Infants per 1,000 live births (7 deaths) Death Rate 14.22

Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 14.68

Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births 0.00

Particulars of any Unusual or Excessive Mortality during the year which has received or required comment

The causes of the highest mortality were:

Cancer 59 (*Vide* Registrar-General)

Heart Disease 60 „

Heart Disease was prevalent in persons over 65 years of age, some cases may have been due to the effects of e.g., Rheumatism in childhood—this is being further investigated under the auspices of the Ministry of Health (lack of vitamin C, improper diet, gland deficiency, etc.).

For further remarks on Cancer see page 39 (i.e., further research, early treatment, etc.).

COMPARISON RATES

<i>Year</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Birth Rate</i>	<i>Death Rate</i>	<i>Infantile Mortality Rate</i>
1945	31,710	15.5	11.07	32.58
1946	32,760	16.9	11.69	32.43
1947	32,930	16.85	11.93	48.6
1948	34,230	15.37	11.08	36.13
1949	34,550	11.75	11.92	27.66
1950	35,580	13.91	10.72	20.20
1951	35,510	13.83	13.89	48.88
1952	35,520	13.86	11.38	20.32
1953	35,800	13.63	10.28	22.54
1954	36,260	13.59	12.58	24.34
1955	36,810	13.36	11.49	14.22

A table on page 37 gives the Birth Rate, Death Rate and analysis of mortality during the year 1955 and comparisons with England and Wales.

Summary of Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age

1 (a)	Hydrocephalus and Meningocele			
	(b) Prematurity	....	....	Male aged 2 hours
1 (a)	Broncho Pneumonia (b) Oppen-			
	heims Disease	....	....	Male aged 5 months
1 (a)	Prematurity (22 weeks pregnancy)			Female aged 2 hours
1 (a)	Prematurity	....	....	Female aged 1 week
1 (a)	Neonatal Asphyxia	....	....	Male aged 20 hours
1 (a)	Erythroblastosis Foetalis		....	Male aged 3 hours
1 (a)	Atelectasis (b) Prematurity		....	Female aged 15 hours

Prevention of any Unusual or Excessive Mortality—Children

Treatment in a General Hospital or an Infectious Disease Hospital, etc., is available for all such cases if any Doctor decides that treatment will benefit, and the patient is fit to be moved. Premature births are specially treated in Hospital or Nursing Homes. District Nurses assist in nursing at home (via the patient's own doctor).

The above is in addition to Health Education, Welfare Schemes and Clinics, etc.

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

1. Public Health Officers

The names and qualifications, districts, addresses and telephone numbers are given at the beginning of the Report.

2. Laboratory Facilities

The Biological Institute of Messrs. Evans Medical Supplies is established in Runcorn. Query Anthrax cases can be examined here and necessary treatment given as required; prior to any hospital treatment.

With the facilities given by the Public Health Laboratory, Hamilton Square, Birkenhead, Public Health Laboratory, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool, the Public Health Laboratory, Monsall Hospital, Newton Heath, Manchester, and the Public Health Laboratories at Warrington and Chester Royal Infirmaries, also various General Hospital Laboratories, all concerned will now be able to make fuller arrangements for pathological overhauls *so essential* in certain cases. It is hoped that this extended service will give all concerned further facilities in the investigation of infectious disease and disease generally (e.g. by pathological overhauls).

Milk is sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Hamilton Square, Birkenhead.

V.D. specimens are sent to the laboratories mentioned above, as required.

SECTION C

1. Water

(i) The water supply of the area has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity, with the exception of isolated farms and houses not on a mains supply.

(ii) Mains supplies and results of chemical analyses and bacteriological examinations are as follows. Parishes refer to the main areas; outlying portions of parishes may be connected to other mains.

Alvanley and Helsby—by the Council from Helsby Wells.

Dutton, Kingsley, Norley, Preston Brook and Sutton—by the Council from Liverpool (Vyrnwy) bulk supplies.

Frodsham, Manley, Antrobus and Whitley—by the Council from Warrington Corporation bulk supplies.

Stockton Heath, Grappenhall, Walton, Appleton, Stretton, Moore, and Daresbury—by Warrington Corporation.

Halton and Clifton—by Runcorn and District Water Board.

Aston and Norton—by private estate mains, the bulk supply being Liverpool (Vyrnwy).

Budworth—by the Council from Mid and South East Cheshire Water Board bulk supplies.

<i>Chemical Analyses</i>	<i>Helsby Well (no treatment) to Alvanley, Helsby</i>	<i>Warrington Harrol Edge to Frodsham, Manley,</i>	<i>Liverpool Vyrnwy to Aston, Dutton, Kingsley, Norley, Norton, Preston Brook, Sutton</i>	<i>Runcorn and District Water Board to Halton</i>	<i>Warrington Vyrnwy mixed to Stockton Heath Area and most other Parishes</i>	<i>Mid and South-East Cheshire Water Board to Budworth Village and Ball Lane, Kingsley</i>
Date	8.1.55	8.1.55	15.5.50	25.1.55	25.1.55	6.3.51
Appearance	Clear and Colourless	Clear and Colourless	Clear and Colourless	Clear and slight yellow	Clear and Slight Yellow	Clear and Colourless
Odour	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Reaction	pH 7.53	pH 7.45	pH 6.3	pH 6.6	pH 7.8	pH 7.1
<i>Parts per million</i>						
Total solids	302	200	38	76	68	286
Nitrogen as free and saline ammonia	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	Nil
Nitrogen as albuminoid ammonia	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.01	0.005
Nitrogen as nitrites	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Nitrogen as nitrates	1.75	2.75	0.00	0.05	0.05	4.8
Chlorides as Cl.	45	34.5	10	8.7	9.1	24
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in four hours at 27° C.	0.02	0.085	2.48	2.42	2.15	0.16
Total hardness	200	125	25	19.5	29.5	170
Temporary hardness	172	100	6	13.0	18	104
Permanent hardness	28	25	19	6.5	11.5	66
Alkalinity as CaCo ₃	172	100	6	13.0	18	104
Free chlorine	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Poisonous metals	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Bacteriological Examination:—						
Date	8.11.55	6.9.55	18.10.55	29.11.55	21.11.55	15.2.55
Probable number of coliform bacilli per 100 m.l.	Nil	Nil	2	Nil	Nil	Nil
% of above faecal coli Report	Satis- factory	Satis- factory	Satis- factory	Satis- factory	Satis- factory	Satis- factory

Analyst's Opinion

Helsby 8.1.55—The chemical analysis of this water is satisfactory.

Warrington Harrol Edge 8.1.55.—The chemical analysis of this water is satisfactory.

Liverpool Vrnwy 15.5.50.—The chemical analysis of this water is satisfactory.

Runcorn and District Water Board 25.1.55.—The chemical analysis of this water is satisfactory.

Warrington Vyrnwy mixed 25.1.55.—The chemical analysis of this water is satisfactory.

Mid and South-East Cheshire Water Board 6.3.51.—The chemical analysis of this water is satisfactory.

(iii) Private water supplies are bacteriologically examined at least once per year. Where, as a result of such sampling, the supplies have been established as unsatisfactory, Notices advising that the water be boiled or chlorinated before drinking, dietetic and dairy purposes are sent and repeated quarterly to the owners and occupiers.

Where farms and farm cottages are concerned, the owners are strongly advised to obtain a mains supply with the assistance of the Cheshire Agricultural Committee under the Agricultural (Misc. Prov.) Act, 1944, Sec. 5.

There is a poor supply in several areas:—

Great Budworth, Whitley and Antrobus, possibly arising out of the mains being too small for the work they now have to do. (This is under consideration by the Surveyor).

Preston Brook—the scraping and reconditioning of the mains is under consideration.

Appleton Thorn Area—this has been referred to the supplying authority, Warrington Corporation.

Mains improvements carried out—A new length of 4in. and 5in. main was laid in Frodsham, Volunteer Street to Fluin Lane, to improve local distribution and to provide for future development.

Mains extensions were carried out for new housing development. One farm house was connected to a mains supply.

(iv)

Parish	(a) Public Water Mains				(b) Private Supplies					
	Direct to house		Standpipes		Private Water Mains		Wells and Springs			
							Good Quality		Suspicious or unsatisfactory Quality	
	Houses	Population	Houses	Population	Houses	Population	Houses	Population	Houses	Population
Alvanley.....	88	284	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	12
Antrobus	221	686	1	5	—	—	—	—	5	15
Appleton	1303	3369	—	—	—	—	1	4	1	1
Aston	46	138	2	4	27	87	—	—	—	—
Budworth (Great).....	119	364	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Daresbury	80	262	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	5
Dutton	96	413	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	—
Frodsham	1687	5376	1	3	—	—	—	—	2	10
Grappenhall	1817	5789	—	—	—	—	4	12	—	—
Halton	460	1687	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hatton	97	320	—	—	—	—	1	5	2	6
Helsby	928	2958	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kingsley	348	1329	15	37	—	—	2	8	6	17
Manley	153	655	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	—
Moore	174	553	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Norley	287	984	—	—	—	—	1	4	2	6
Norton	16	60	—	—	25	81	—	—	—	—
Preston Brook.....	125	364	—	—	1	4	—	—	10	35
Stockton Heath.....	2328	7420	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stretton	144	472	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	7
Sutton	233	708	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Walton	516	1644	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—
Whitley	180	584	5	15	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	11446	36419	24	64	53	172	12	41	36	114

2 Drainage and Sewage

Kingsley and Norley—The Ministry of Housing and Local Government held a local investigation, the outcome of which is now awaited.

Frodsham—Hares' Lane Pumping Station, an outline scheme was submitted to the Ministry.

Other matters requiring attention in the future are:—

1. Helsby — new intercepting sewer and sewage disposal works extensions.
2. Great Budworth — sewers and sewage disposal works.
3. Stretton — sewage disposal improvements.
4. Acton Grange — works enlargements.
5. Moore — sewage disposal improvements.

When septic tanks are installed it is important that *adequate filtration or subsoil irrigation* is provided to prevent pollution of watercourses and ditches. *In addition, the septic tanks should be maintained and desludged at regular intervals.* Many inspections have been carried out in connection with existing installations and in giving advice on new proposed works.

Three drainage systems of existing properties were connected to public sewers.

3. Rivers and Streams

Pollution of ditches and streams remains a problem owing to the erection of new houses, improved sanitary appliances to existing houses and improved milk and dairy technique in parishes without sewers. Private owners are advised on the best type of septic tanks and filters for their property. Where such properties are in groups, the only final satisfactory solution is the provision of a sewer and sewage disposal works. Liquor from cowsheds presents a particularly difficult problem where it is not collected and returned to the land as manure.

A cesspool emptying vehicle is used for desludging septic and settling tanks on both Council and Private property. It is available 1½ days per week, the other days being employed in collecting nightsoil. This hardly meets the needs of the district, but a further vehicle was obtained to come into operation early in 1956.

For private work the Council charge 15/- per hour with a minimum charge of 15/- and require the applicant to have the access covers of the tanks loosened and opened up in readiness. The charge for industrial and farm liquor tanks is 30/- per hour.

Where plans are submitted to the Engineer and Surveyor involving drainage systems not connected to a public sewer, the observations of this department have been sought on the efficiency of the proposed drainage disposal.

Pretreated effluents from two tanneries at Grappenhall are received into the Council's sewer which has improved the condition of the stream previously receiving the drainage, some pollution still occurs occasionally owing to the failure of the tannery plant to deal with all the effluent in the settling tanks.

The pollution of the non-tidal section of the Manchester Ship Canal continues, and causes objectionable odours after a prolonged period of warm weather (reported to the appropriate Rivers Board who have the matter under consideration).

4. Closest Accommodation

Twenty-five conversions to the water carriage system were carried out. Where this has been done voluntarily by the owners and is not part of an improvement grant, the Council has, when requested paid a grant up to £15 provided that where a public sewer is not available, the owners will at their own expense connect to a public sewer when it becomes available.

5. Public Cleansing

This is carried out by the Engineer and Surveyor under direct labour. Disposal is by tipping and levelling with earthing over at intervals at two main tips and several smaller ones. Nuisance arises from flies, crickets and rat infestation, and to minimise this in the interests of public health and ammenity *fully-controlled tipping is necessary.*

D.D.T. or Gammexane types of insecticide should also be used on tips as and when required, especially in warm weather.

The cesspool emptying vehicles are adapted for the collection of the contents of pail closets and enables the collection and dipsosal of the nightsoil by discharging into the sewers to be carried out with the minimum of nuisance.

6. Sanitary Inspection of the Area

The following tabular statement is furnished by the Senior Sanitary Inspector under Article 27 (18) of the Sanitary Inspectors' (outside London) Regulations, 1935, or Article 19 of the Sanitary Officers' Order, 1926:—

<i>Nature of Inspections</i>		<i>No. of Inspections</i>	<i>Informal Notices</i>	<i>Statutory Notices</i>
Dwelling Houses (Housing Acts) ....	....	665	1	31
Dwelling Houses (Improvement Grants) ....	....	144	—	—
Dwelling Houses (No. of Inmates and queries re Council house applications)....	....	233	—	—
Dwelling Houses (Public Health Act) ....	....	398	60	18

Defects in above:

(a) Roofs, gutters and rain-water pipes	—	42	18
(b) Sanitary fittings	—	13	—
(c) Other defects	—	35	2
Schools	6	—	—
Movable Dwellings	154	39	—
Water Supplies (Samples)	45	—	—
(Other Inspections)	39	4	—
Closet Conversions	40	—	—
Cesspools and Septic Tanks	148	13	4
Sewer Connections	6	—	—
Sewers and Drains	293	20	6
Colour Tests	65	—	—
Ditches, Brooks	44	6	—
Refuse Collection and Disposal	70	1	—
Streets, Yards and Passages	16	1	—
Foul Accumulations	26	4	—
Tipping on Waste Land	46	82	—
Vermin (Rats and Mice)	232	2	—
(Insects)	46	—	—
Piggeries and keeping of animals	19	2	—
Dairies and Milk Retailers	44	—	—
Milk Samples	54	—	—
Factories and Workshops	61	25	—
Shops and Foodstores	103	3	—
Bakehouses	13	1	—
Food Inspection (Shops)	44	3	—
Slaughter Houses (Meat Inspection)	203	—	—
Canal Boats	—	—	—
Zymotic Inquiries	57	—	—
Visits to Contacts and Schools	99	—	—
Mortuaries	18	—	—
Petrol Stores	36	—	—
Hutted Camps	48	—	—
Miscellaneous	133	3	—
Health (Divisional matters, etc.)	31	—	—
Interviews with Builders, Owners and Agents	215	—	—
Ice-Cream Samples	21	—	—
Smoke Nuisances	25	4	—
Soil Samples	37	—	—
TOTALS	3977	364	61

SHOPS

7. Shops Act, 1950.

No. employing persons	....	....	....	....	....	126
No. employing members of own family only				....	....	185
						<hr/> 311 <hr/>

8. Smoke Abatement

The Council remains a constituent Authority with the Manchester Regional Smoke Abatement Committee and makes a contribution to its fund for providing special Smoke Inspectors.

Action by the appropriate Government Departments in supplying smokeless fuels *at a reasonable cost*, etc., for the house, factory, etc., would go a long way in reducing the nuisance, in addition *proper stoking*.

- (i) Where there is *smoke*—there is fuel being wasted, and so Air Pollution with its nuisance and danger to health.
- (ii) Preventive Measures are available for No. (i) above.
- (iii) We are entitled to clean air in the same way as we have clean water etc.

The general public, owners of factories, etc., should be aware of this.

Noxious odours were occasionally noted in the district arising from certain large industrial works outside the district, when the wind is in a certain direction, fortunately not the prevailing wind. The matter was referred to H.M. Alkali Inspector (Factory Inspector). Little nuisance was observed in 1955, due to action by the latter, and pressure brought on the company by the Runcorn Rural District Council.

9. Rats and Mice Destruction

The Senior Sanitary Inspector acts as Rodent Officer—one full-time Rodent Operative is employed. The Council co-operates with the Cheshire Agricultural Executive Committee who carry out rodent destruction on agricultural premises.

Treatment was offered to industrial premises at a charge of cost of labour and materials. Some of these, schools, and two cooking depots, receive treatment as required on this basis—10 others preferred to enter into contracts as before. Dwelling houses receive free treatment unless the infestation is due to lack of hygiene or the unsatisfactory keeping of animals or poultry, in which case a charge is made. Warfarin with an oatmeal base was used with satisfactory results.

Some 866 properties were inspected and of these 433 were treated.

The Council has 17 tips, sewage outfalls and properties which receive treatment as required. The sewer systems in Appleton, Daresbury, Frodsham, Grappenhall, Halton, Hatton, Helsby, Moore, Stockton Heath, Sutton and Walton, were test baited and infestation was found in Frodsham, Halton, Hatton, Helsby and Walton, to a limited degree. The infested portions received two maintenance treatments.

10. FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948
Home Office Form 572 (Revised)

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health, including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors :

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Inspec- tions</i>	<i>Written notices</i>	<i>Occupiers Prosecuted</i>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	28	15	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	91	36	6	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	43	10	—	—
TOTAL	162	61	6	—

2. Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted	
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector by H.M. Inspector		
Want of Cleanliness (S.1.)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	4	2	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	20	15	—	5	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	1	—	—	—
Other offences against the act (not including offences relating to Outworkers)...	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	25	18	—	5	—

All factories are entered in the register kept for the purpose. Number of Outworkers—11, employed in the making of wearing apparel and curtains. No action taken during the year.

11. Swimming Baths

There are no Public Swimming Baths in the District.

12. Movable Dwellings

Close supervision was maintained on camping sites and individual movable dwellings.

In addition to licences under the Public Health Act, movable dwellings require approval under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947, which gives better control as regards amenity to the district than the Public Health Act. The Council have adopted the recommendations of the County Planning Officer on new camping sites which include the following:

“The use of the said property as a camping ground shall mean its use as pitches for:—

(i) tents covering an area not exceeding 100 sq. ft, each, or

(ii) caravans on wheels specially built for use as living accommodation and maintained in a fit state to be drawn or propelled on their own wheels on the public highway. No railway carriage, tram-car, omnibus body or other similar article, whether on wheels or not and howsoever adapted, shall be permitted to be stationed or erected on the said property.”

Many of the movable dwellings have had various unauthorised hut additions added, and active measures were taken to have these removed or reduced to a modest size.

The Council decided they would permit per caravan only one movable independent shed of up to 6ft. × 4ft. by 6ft. high (excluding closet accommodation) of good and neat construction.

It is recommended that special attention is given to *overcrowding* in “caravans” etc., also whether structurally they are fit for human habitation. *The appropriate Ministry should strengthen the Byelaws on the subject.* The Housing Act 1936-49 and the Public Health Act 1936 should be applied as required and where applicable.

CAMPING SITES

Number of licences in operation, Public Health Act, 1936, Section 269:—

	<i>Year of 1955</i>
(a) For Camping Sites	18
(b) For fixed type dwellings sited on above Camping Sites	6
(c) For other individual moveable dwellings	58
Estimated maximum number of Campers resident in the area at one time, during the summer season, 1955	660

13. Insect Pests

No houses were found to be infested with bed bugs.

Other infestations dealt with were ants, wasps' nests, cockroaches and house flies.

14. Schools

The water supply is good and adequate, but repairs and improvements are required at many schools. Certain urgent maintenance repairs were asked for and carried out. Automatic flushing of urinals is required in some cases, also attention to dusty, badly surfaced playgrounds; pail closets should be fly-proof.

The County Medical Officer of Health, Cheshire, has reported on schools (in and outside) direct to the Director of Education, C.C.C.

15. Mortuaries

The mortuaries controlled by the Council at Frodsham and Stockton Heath are in a satisfactory condition.

SECTION D—HOUSING

1. New Houses brought into the Rate Book in 1955

Number of new houses erected by Local Authority	138
Number of new houses erected by other bodies and persons	191
TOTAL	329

<i>Parishes</i>	<i>New Houses erected 1955</i>		<i>No. of inhabited houses in Rural District 31st Dec. 1955.</i>	
	<i>Total per Parish</i>			
	<i>Private</i>	<i>Local Authority</i>		
Alvanley	1	—	92	
Antrobus	1	—	227	
Appleton	15	84	1305	
Aston	3	—	75	
Budworth (Great)	—	—	119	
Daresbury	6	—	82	
Dutton	1	—	97	
Frodsham	14	54	1690	
Grappenhall	59	—	1821	
Halton	9	—	460	
Hatton	—	—	100	
Helsby	43	—	928	
Kingsley	2	—	371	
Manley	—	—	154	

Moore	....	....	....	....	—	—	174
Norley	....	....	....	....	3	—	290
Norton	....	....	....	....	—	—	41
Preston Brook	....	....	....	....	1	—	136
Stockton Heath	....	....	....	....	17	—	2328
Stretton	....	....	....	....	—	—	146
Sutton	....	....	....	....	4	—	233
Walton	....	....	....	....	8	—	517
Whitley	....	....	....	....	4	—	185
TOTALS				....	191	138	11571

2. Housing

The survey of unfit houses to be dealt with under the 5 year Slum Clearance programme was completed.

The numbers in each parish are set out in the table on the opposite page, together with an analysis of the progress up to 10th November, 1955.

It will be noted that there are high proportions of families consisting of one or two persons only. The aged persons bungalows will be more useful in rehousing some of these. Of the families, 2 in number, it is estimated that 35 could be rehoused in this type of accommodation.

Several owners of unfit houses have voluntarily undertaken not to relet the houses in their existing condition, once they are vacated, and subsequently to either demolish or recondition them to the Council's satisfaction.

Improvement grants were made for 15 houses, 12 of which were owner/occupied.

Many other houses have been inspected and the owners interviewed with regard to proposed applications for such grants. 53 reports on these preliminary inspections of properties were passed on to the Engineer & Surveyor who deals with the detailed applications and specifications.

Certificates of Disrepair were granted in 10 cases and 11 were revoked in the year.

CLEARANCE AREAS AND INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1955

Part A — Clearance Areas (Housing Act, 1936) — Nil

Part B — Houses not included in Clearance Areas

	Number of Houses Persons displaced	
DEMOLITION AND CLOSING ORDERS		
(1) Housing Act, 1936		
(a) Houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 11	21	6
(b) Houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by the owners under Section 11, and still in force	19	62
(c) Parts of buildings closed (Section 12)....	0	0

ANALYSIS OF UNFIT HOUSES

<i>Parish</i>	<i>No. of Houses</i>	<i>Demolished</i>	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Demolition Order or Agreement not to re-let but still occupied</i>	<i>Reconditioned or Improvements commenced</i>	<i>No. in Family — Persons</i>						
						<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>
Alvanley ...	2	—	—	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Antrobus...	6	—	2	—	1	—	2	—	—	2	—	—
Appleton ...	11	—	2	1	—	4	—	3	2	—	—	—
Aston ...	8	—	1	1	1	—	5	2	—	—	—	—
Budworth, Great	7	—	3	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	—	—
Daresbury ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dutton ...	6	—	—	—	—	2	—	3	—	—	—	—
Frodsham ...	97	4	22	15	2	10	28	17	10	5	1	—
Grappenhall ...	16	2	3	9	—	2	3	2	2	1	—	1
Halton ...	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Hatton ...	6	—	1	2	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	—
Helsby ...	22	2	—	—	2	7	6	5	1	—	1	—
Kingsley ...	24	—	2	4	1	7	10	2	1	—	—	—
Manley ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Moore ...	4	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	—	—	—
Norley ...	6	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Norton ...	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	4	—	—	—	—
Preston Brook ...	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Stockton Heath ...	13	—	9	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Stretton ...	10	2	1	8	—	—	1	1	2	—	—	—
Sutton ...	9	—	1	3	1	2	3	1	1	1	1	—
Walton ...	—	—	1	5	—	—	4	1	1	—	—	—
Whitley ...	17	—	3	—	—	4	3	6	—	—	1	—
Totals ...	270	10	50	53	9	41	74	53	23	12	6	1

(2) Housing Act, 1949		
(a) Closing Orders made under Section 3 (1)	0	0
(b) Demolition Orders determined and Closing Orders substituted under Section 3 (2)	0	0
(3) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1953 Closing Orders made under Section 10 (1)	0	0

Number of
Houses*

REPAIRS**Informal Action**

- (4) Number of unfit or defective houses rendered fit during the period as a result of informal action by the local authority under the Public Health or Housing Acts 42

Action under Statutory Powers**(5) Public Health Acts**

Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices

- (a) by owners 3
- (b) by local authority in default of owners 0

(6) Housing Act, 1936

Number of houses made fit after service of formal notices (Sections 9, 10, 11 and 16)

- (a) by owners 2
- (b) by local authority in default of owners 0

Note: *A defective house remedied more than once during the period should be included once only.

3. Emergency Accommodation

All requisitioned properties have been released.

The converted ex-Army huts at Townfield Lane Camp, Frodsham, are in the process of being demolished. Red Brow Camp, Preston Brook, still provides accommodation for 7 families. Vacated huts are not being relet, and it is hoped to rehouse the remaining families in 1956.

4. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding

		1954	1955
(a)	i. Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	10	10
	ii. Number of families dwelling therein	18	14
	iii. Number of persons dwelling therein	65	68
(b)	i. Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	6	4
(c)	i. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	5	4
	ii. Number of persons concerned in such cases	32	24
(d)	i. Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have become overcrowded after the Local Authority has taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil	Nil

SECTION E INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

1. Milk and Dairies

Numbers on the registers are:—

Dairies	....	....	....	3
Distributors	....	....	....	21
Dealers	....	....	....	12
Supplementary	....	....	....	7

Samples taken were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Birkenhead, and comprise the following:—

	<i>No. of samples</i>	<i>No. of samples unsatisfactory</i>
Methylene Blue (keeping quality raw milks)	53	—
Phosphatase (Heat Treated Pasteurised Milks)	35	—
Turbidity (Heat Treated Sterilised Milks)	6	—
Of these samples number biological examination for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli	12	—
Number found to contain Tubercle Bacilli	—	—

2. Food Premises in Area

Grocer	....	....	....	....	....	58
Grocer and General Stores	....	....	....	....	....	42
Greengrocer	....	....	....	....	....	19
Sweets....	....	....	....	....	....	29
Butcher	....	....	....	....	....	26
Chemist	....	....	....	....	....	7
Fish and Chips	....	....	....	....	....	10
Wet Fish	....	....	....	....	....	6
Tripe	....	....	....	....	....	1
Cooked Meats	....	....	....	....	....	1
Cafe	....	....	....	....	....	16
Cafe with Shop	....	....	....	....	....	15
Licensed premises with Catering	....	....	....	....	....	17
Confectioners }						
Baker }	....	....	....	....	....	17
						<hr/> 264 <hr/>

Number of Food premises registered under Section 14, of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938:—

Ice-Cream —Sale only	....	....	....	....	76
Manufacture Hot Mix	....	....	....	....	2
Manufacture Cold Mix	....	....	....	....	2
TOTAL....					<hr/> 80 <hr/>
Preserved Foods —Jam Factory	....	....	....	....	1
Sausage and Cooked Meats	....	....	....	....	21
Meat Pies	....	....	....	....	10
Fish and Chips	....	....	....	....	8
TOTAL					<hr/> 40 <hr/>

93 Inspections were made at Registered premises.

No special educational activity was undertaken, such as, clean food guilds or lectures on food hygiene, but advice is given as and when required in the course of inspections.

3. Ice-cream

The hygiene of premises and personnel was satisfactory. Manufacture is only on a small scale 2 by hot mix and 2 by cold mix. All other registrations are for sale only.

Samples were taken which were graded as follows:—

Ice-Cream—Grade 1	....	....	....	15
Grade 2	....	....	....	0
Grade 3	....	....	....	0
Grade 4	....	....	....	0
Ice Lollies—Satisfactory	....	....	....	6

4. Meat and Other Foods

The Sanitary Inspectors act as Meat Inspectors.

During the year visits made in respect of Meat and Food Inspections were 44 in shops and 203 in slaughterhouses.

No Meat Marketing Scheme under Part III of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, is in force in this district.

Three slaughterhouses were licensed at the end of the rationing period, two are in regular use.

The quantity of food condemned in shops and canteens during the year was:—

	lbs.
Canned Meat	40
Canned Soup	6
Canned Fish	7
Canned Fruit	146
Canned Vegetables	24
Jam	14
Milk	17
Cream	1
Flour	27
Cake Mixture	5
Custard Powder	3
Barley Kernals	7
Saccharines	2
Pickles	43
Cheese	34
Crab	26
Ham	56
Beef	36
Various Condiments	107
Rusks	17
Chocolate Powder	12
Pudding	2
Coffee	1
Raisins	24
TOTAL	657

Carcases inspected and carcasses or parts condemned:

	Cattle exclud ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	98	59	18	602	155
Number inspected	98	59	18	602	155
All diseases except Tuberculosis: Whole carcasses condemned	2	Nil	Nil	1	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	15	6	1	19	1
Percentage of the no. inspected affec- ted with disease other than Tubercu- losis	17.3 %	10.1 %	5.5 %	3.3 %	0.6 %
Tuberculosis only: Whole carcasses condemned	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	3	9	Nil	Nil	2
Percentage of the no. inspected affec- ted with Tuberculosis	5.1 %	15.2 %	Nil	Nil	1.2 %

Meat and Edible Offals Condemned

The amount of meat and edible offals condemned was:—

For tuberculosis 1329 lbs.

For other causes 1247 lbs.

Condemned Food Disposal

Meat and other foods are stained with a green dye and disposed of by burying deep in the Council's Refuse Tips.

5. Adulteration, etc. Food and Drugs Adulteration Act

I am indebted to the Chief Inspector of the Cheshire County Council for the following report of the work carried out by his department in the Runcorn Rural District under the Food and Drugs Act during the year 1955.

Samples obtained during the year ended 31st December, 1955.

<i>Name of Sample</i>	<i>No. obtained</i>	<i>Number adulterated or not up to the recognised standard of quality</i>
Almonds, Ground	1	—
Apples	2	—
Boric Ointment	1	1
Cream, Tinned	2	—
Camphorated Oil	2	—
Coffee and Chicory	1	—
Cheese and Tomato Spread	1	—
Christmas Pudding	2	—
Desiccated Coconut	1	—
Dripping	1	—
Fish Paste	1	—
Gravy Browning	1	—
Iodised Throat Tablets	1	—
Ice Cream	2	—
Jam	3	—
Lemon Cheese	2	—
Milks	50	4
Milk, Condensed	2	—
Mincemeat	1	—
Margarine	1	—
Milk Bread	2	—
Orange Squash	3	—
Peaches, Tendersied	1	—
Prunes	1	—
Raisins	1	—
Suet	1	—
Sweets	2	—
Sulphur and Treacle	1	—
	90	5

Particulars of Non-Standard Samples

<i>Sample</i>	<i>Result of Analysis</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
1 Milk (Channel Islands)	12.5% deficient in fat	Particulars sent to Ministry of Food in accordance with instructions contained in Circular M.F. 8/48
2 Milk (Channel Islands)	17.5% deficient in fat	do.

- 3 Milk 38.3 % deficient in fat Follow up "appeal to cow" sample taken at farm, from bulked milk of 18 cows, proved to be genuine although the fat content of 12 other samples taken at the same time from individual (or pairs) of these cows ranged from 1.95 to 4.0 per cent. The fat content of the original sample was 1.85 per cent and, as the milk was not bulked it was practically certain that the sample was from one or two of the cows giving milk of low fat content. Seller was cautioned and advised to bulk the milk.
- 4 Milk 6.6 % deficient in fat Seller cautioned
- 5 Boric Acid Ointment19 % excess boric acid Manufacturers cautioned

6. Shell-Fish (Molluscan)

There are no Shell-fish beds in the area. Shell-fish are on sale regularly in the district. If Shell-fish, Mussels or Shrimps are eaten locally, they should be well cooked and should come from Government-controlled beds.

7. Watercress

Only that as grown on properly controlled beds with a pure water supply and labelled should be sold and bought, otherwise there is a danger of intestinal disease spreading.

SECTION F

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The prevailing varieties of notifiable disease during the year were mainly confined to Measles and Scarlet Fever.

1. Immunisation and Vaccination

Combined Diphtheria-Whooping Cough-Tetanus vaccine can now be given to infants at an early age (approx. 3 months) the results so far have been very good. This can be obtained free of charge ~~by~~ *from* the patient's own Doctor; *I strongly recommend this.*

2. Diphtheria Immunisation

The *free scheme* is still available so that parents and guardians may have their children *properly* immunised against the deadly disease diphtheria.

All children one to fifteen years of age (preferably between the sixth and ninth months) should be properly immunised against diphtheria by two injections; in addition, a "booster" dose (one) is required in five years' time. This can be obtained free of cost through the parents' or guardians' own Doctor in the Surgery; also at Welfare Centres and Day Nurseries. Special Clinics are organised at schools as required. Application should be made at the Welfare Centres, Day Nurseries, Schools, or to the Public Health Department (Divisional).

Propaganda on the above has been *continuously* carried out aided by the Press and the Central Council for Health Education, etc, but still some children are found to have not been immunised.

Parents or guardians should face up to their responsibilities and have their children properly immunised at once:

"PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE."

Further research is required into the "carrier" state of many diseases with a view to providing a cure for these, but preventive measures, e.g., Diphtheria and Whooping Cough Immunisation, Smallpox Vaccination, Inoculation against Typhoid Fever and other diseases will be necessary for many years where these diseases are likely to occur, or are prevalent; in addition proper hygiene and sanitation are essential.

As already recommended (via the Press, etc.), children should be vaccinated against Smallpox soon after birth, given Whooping Cough vaccine when about 3 months old and immunised against Diphtheria at about 8 months old.

Reference is made to B.C.G. vaccination against Tuberculosis in Appendix "A".

3. Care of the Blind

The welfare of Blind Persons was dealt with by the County Medical Officer of Health, Cheshire, under the provisions of the appropriate Act, working in conjunction with the Blind Welfare Societies, up to 5th July, 1948, and after this the same care continued under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946 (Divisional Health Committee.)

4. Mental Deficiency and Special Schools for Defective Children

This was dealt with as required by the County Medical Officer of Health, Cheshire, and the appropriate Departments, etc., up to 5th July, 1948; after this further developments were carried out under the appropriate Acts.

5. Ophthalmia Neonatorum

Cases of this disease are notified immediately to the County and local Divisional Medical Officer of Health.

6. Prevention of Disease from Abroad

The Government under the appropriate Acts has a system of medical examination, etc., for those persons arriving in this country from abroad who have been in areas where serious infectious disease has occurred. All contacts are medically examined, given written and verbal instructions what to do if they feel ill, and the local Medical Officer of Health is notified of their arrival and he arranges for the necessary supervision. With the outbreaks of the serious type of smallpox abroad, it is again strongly recommended that all infants and others should be properly vaccinated according to the law on the subject; this can be carried out free of charge through the patient's own doctor.

7. Infectious and Other Notifiable Diseases, 1955

Disease	Age Groups of Cases Notified									Total
	Un- der 1	1 to 2	3 to 4	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	65 and over	
Scarlet fever	—	—	4	19	1	—	—	—	—	24
Measles	11	61	81	163	7	2	3	—	—	328
Whooping Cough	3	3	8	18	—	—	—	—	—	32
Pneumonia	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	1	6	10
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	3
Anterio Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	2
Acute Encephalitis	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
TOTALS	15	65	93	203	10	4	7	1	8	406

The most prevalent diseases were Measles and Whooping Cough.

Tuberculosis notifications are given in a separate section of the report.

The Chester and District Hospital Management Committee have informed all general practitioners that they would be responsible for the supply of diphtheria antitoxin (free)—in emergency at the Runcorn Victoria Memorial Hospital (the Matron). In addition it can be obtained at any general hospital. Supplies can also be obtained (in emergency) from any infectious disease hospital, e.g., Warrington and Davenham.

Practitioners may, if they wish, obtain a small stock from a hospital in anticipation of requirements rather than wait until they need it for a particular case. (N.B.)

Stocks held by hospitals or practitioners should be returned three months before expiry date for exchange to the source of supply.

In few diseases is prompt treatment as necessary as in diphtheria.

N.B. Antitoxin should be given in all suspicious cases at once, in the home or in the hospital. SWABBING IS ONLY AN AID TO DIAGNOSIS.

Swabs were examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Birkenhead—in addition, as required, the laboratories at Chester and Warrington, free of charge (*this applies to all examinations carried out in the interests of Public Health*).

8. Causes of Death at different Periods of Life during the year 1955:

Cause of Death	AGE GROUP AND SEX														TOTALS ALL AGE GROUPS			
	Under 1 year		1 to 5 years		5 to 15 years		15 to 25 years		25 to 45 years		45 to 65 years		65 to 75 years		75 years and over		M	F
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F				
Tuberculosis: Respiratory	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Tuberculosis: Other forms	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Syphilitic Disease	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria: Meningococcal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm: Stomach	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	4	2	2	1	2	4	4
Malignant Neoplasm: Lung, Bronchus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	2
" Breast	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	9
Malignant Neoplasm: Uterus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	14
Leukaemia; Aleukaemia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
Diabetes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Coronary Disease Angina	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	9	15	7	13	18	18	36	43
Hypertension with Heart Disease	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	36	29
Other Heart Disease	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	4
Other Circulatory Disease	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23	30
Influenza	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	22
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Bronchitis	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	6
Other Respiratory Diseases	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	7
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4
Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Hyperplasia of Prostate	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pregnancy: Childbirth, abortion	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Congenital Malformations	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	3	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	3	3	7	4	3	13	16	25
Motor Vehicle Accidents	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	2	-	-	2	4
All other Accidents	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	1	1	1	2	-	-	5	4
Suicide	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Homicide and Operations of War	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
ALL CAUSES	4	3	2	-	1	-	2	2	8	9	49	43	62	67	77	95	204	219

					<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	{	Total	....	....	4	3
		Legitimate	....	....	4	3
		Illegitimate	....	....	0	0
Live Births	{	Total	....	....	262	230
		Legitimate	....	....	251	226
		Illegitimate	....	....	11	4
Stillbirths	{	Total	....	....	4	5
		Legitimate	....	....	4	5
		Illegitimate	....	....	0	0

POPULATION.....36,810 (estimated mid-year Home Population)
 Comparability Factors.....Births 1.05; Deaths 0.92

BIRTH RATES, DEATH RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY,
 MATERNAL MORTALITY AND CASE RATES FOR
 CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1955
 Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns

						<i>Runcorn Rural District</i>	<i>England and Wales</i>
						<i>Rates per 1,000 Home Population</i>	
BIRTHS—							
Live births	....	....	....	....	....	13.36	15.0
Stillbirths	....	....	....	....	....	17.96(a)	23.1(a)
DEATHS—							
All causes	....	....	....	....	....	11.49	11.7
NOTIFICATIONS (corrected)—							
Typhoid Fever	....	....	....	....	....	0.00	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	....	....	....	....	....	0.00	0.02
Meningococcal Infection	....	....	....	....	....	0.05	0.02
Scarlet Fever	....	....	....	....	....	0.65	0.76
Whooping Cough	....	....	....	....	....	0.86	1.77
Diphtheria	....	....	....	....	....	0.00	0.00
Erysipelas	....	....	....	....	....	0.08	0.10
Smallpox	....	....	....	....	....	0.00	0.00
Measles	....	....	....	....	....	8.91	15.61
Pneumonia	....	....	....	....	....	0.27	0.62
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis)							
Paralytic	....	....	....	....	....	0.02	0.08
Non-paralytic	....	....	....	....	....	0.00	0.05
Food Poisoning	....	....	....	....	....	0.00	0.28
Puerperal Pyrexia	....	....	....	....	....	0.08	17.91(a)
							<i>Rates per 1,000 Live Births</i>
DEATHS—							
All causes under 1 year of age	....	....	....	....	....	14.22	24.9

(a) Per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births

9. Tuberculosis

No person employed in the milk trade was found suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, nor was it found necessary compulsorily to remove to hospital any person suffering from Tuberculosis.

For the prevention of this disease, the following precautions should be noted:—

A properly balanced diet, in addition early diagnosis (X-ray, etc.), proper treatment, *thorough* disinfection of homes when cases go to a sanatorium, separate rooms and utensils, frequent visits by Health Visitors, and as required by the Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspectors. All new cases are specially investigated by me and reported to me as Divisional Medical Officer of Health (as required to H.M. Inspector of Factories). Close liaison is kept with the Chest Physicians. Follow-up of contacts and the patients by the Health Visitor is carried out very thoroughly and action taken as required by myself and the Chest Physician (Divisional Health). The Mass X-ray Units are proving useful in detecting early cases of Tuberculosis, etc. “Specified” areas are increasing in which only heat-treated or tuberculin-tested milk can be sold; this is important.

Medical officers in charge of industrial hygiene, etc., factory inspectors, form a valuable liaison in preventing and ascertaining the cause of tuberculosis (e.g., dust, working conditions, disinfections, cleanliness, etc.). The Public Health Act, 1936 (Section 287) proves useful to the Medical Officer of Health (and Sanitary Inspectors) allowing power of entry to any premises for the general purpose of the Act, in conjunction with those concerned.

In my opinion, all milk, especially for children, should be properly heat-treated (e.g., pasteurised or sterilised); failing this, heat-treated in the home.

With proper veterinary control of cattle, proper housing conditions and food for the people, these, with heat-treatment of milk (e.g., pasteurisation, etc., or proper heat-treatment in the home), will help to stamp out this terrible disease. Proper heat-treatment of milk not only kills tubercle bacillus but other germs causing disease.

A thorough disinfection (steam, etc.) of the house, clothing, etc. with a *thorough* “spring-clean” of the house when a case is admitted to hospital, *is essential*. Isolation of contacts (*especially* children) is most essential and every endeavour is made to do this. B.C.G. injections are given by the Chest Physician in suitable cases. Chalets, extra beds and bedding are supplied as and when required, via the Divisional Health Department.

Particulars of the 32 new cases of tuberculosis and of the 3 deaths from the disease in the area during 1955:—

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non- Respiratory		Respiratory		Non Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4-14	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
15-24	—	3	2	—	—	—	1	—
25-34	1(3)	2(1)	—	—	1	—	—	—
35-44	— (1)	1(1)	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-54	2(3)	1(1)	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-64	2	1(1)	1	—	1	—	—	—
65 upwards	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	14	13	4	1	2	—	1	—

2 Deaths were Notified Cases.

Figures in brackets relate to cases transferred from another district

Specimens of sputum from suspected Pulmonary Tuberculosis patients are examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Birkenhead, also Warrington and Chester Royal Infirmary laboratories.

Tuberculosis cases on register. Comparative rates:—

Year	Estimated Population	Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary		Total all Forms	No. per 1,000 of Population
		M.	F.	M.	F.		
1945	31,710	71	53	32	41	197	6.21
1946	32,760	68	44	34	34	180	5.49
1947	32,930	60	42	29	32	163	4.95
1948	34,230	59	44	28	33	164	4.79
1949	34,550	62	37	31	34	164	4.74
1950	35,580	74	48	29	35	186	5.22
1951	35,510	79	55	25	34	193	5.43
1952	35,520	89	61	29	33	212	5.97
1953	35,800	93	67	27	30	217	6.06
1954	36,260	86	68	22	23	199	5.48
1955	36,810	91	63	20	20	194	5.02

10. Cancer Research

The Department is still co-operating in the survey being carried out under the auspices of Dr. Percy Stocks, lately Chief Medical Statistician, General Register Office, into recent cancer deaths on Merseyside. Investigations into cancer deaths, i.e., analytical research is being carried out in conjunction with the Department of

Agricultural Chemistry (B.E.C.C.), Memorial Buildings, Deiniol Road, Bangor, Caernarvonshire.

During the year there were 59 deaths recorded from cancer as compared with 59 in 1954. These figures were equivalent to 1.60 and 1.62 per 1,000 of the population respectively.

Details of Cancer Deaths Over The Past Five Years

Year	Site	1-14	15-44	45-64	65-74	75 and over	Rate per 1000 population	Total all ages	
								M.	F.
1951	Stomach	—	—	—	6	—	1.83	3	3
	Lungs, Bronchus	—	1	4	3	1		5	4
	Other Sites	—	3	15	19	13		27	23
1952	Stomach	—	—	6	1	2	1.63	4	5
	Lungs, Bronchus	—	1	6	3	—		7	3
	Other Sites	—	1	11	16	11		18	21
1953	Stomach	—	—	5	6	1	1.67	10	2
	Lungs, Bronchus	—	1	5	4	1		8	3
	Other Sites	—	2	13	7	15		20	17
1954	Stomach	—	1	2	5	7	1.62	9	6
	Lungs, Bronchus	—	1	4	—	—		5	—
	Other Sites	—	5	11	12	11		19	20
1955	Stomach	—	—	1	3	4	1.60	4	4
	Lungs, Bronchus	—	3	4	1	2		8	2
	Other Sites	—	2	15	17	7		17	24

Under Section 76 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, Sections 1, 2 and 6 and sub-sections (2) and (3) of Section 8 of the Cancer Act, 1939, were repealed and the responsibility for the provision of an adequate cancer service was placed on the Minister and Regional Hospital Boards by Part II of the National Health Service Act of 1946.

Facilities for cancer diagnosis and treatment are available in all major general hospitals in the area and the radiotherapeutic work in the region is centred at the Liverpool Radium Institute. Follow-up clinics are undertaken at the Chester Royal Infirmary.

The areas of the Runcorn Rural District Council and the Runcorn Urban District Council are within the area of the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board.

ANNUAL REPORT OF CANAL BOAT INSPECTOR 1955

In accordance with Section 249 (3) of the Public Health Act, 1936, I beg to report as follows:—

No canal boats were inspected during the year 1955.

Several visits were made to the canals, but as reported in recent years road transport has superseded canal transport, as regards wharves in this district. A few boats continue to pass through the district.

Appendix "A"

CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

RUNCORN DIVISIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

REPORT
FOR THE YEAR
1955

By the

DIVISIONAL MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Presented to the
Runcorn Divisional Health Committee
20th March, 1956

MEMBERS OF THE RUNCORN DIVISIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman:

COUNCILLOR W. H. STUBBS

Deputy Chairman:

COUNCILLOR H. GOODALL

Representatives of Local Health Authority

County Alderman G. ASTBURY,	Chairman, County Health Committee
„ Councillor A. WHITLEY,	Vice-Chairman County Health Committee
Alderman W. GITTINS,	County Councillor R. E. PAYTON
County Councillor H. MANN	„ „ Miss M. J. PREECE
„ „ A. E. MOORS	

Runcorn Rural District Council Representatives

Councillor D. L. DAVIES	Councillor J. W. KIRKHAM
„ Mrs. K. I. DEWES	„ T. L. LOOKER
„ Mrs. T. A. GLOVER	„ Mrs. E. STANSFIELD
„ J. HUNT	„ G. S. WALLWORTH
„ H. JACKSON	

Runcorn Urban District Council Representatives

Councillor C. J. HELSBY	Councillor J. G. POTTS
„ S. HOLT	„ T. B. SHALLCROSS
„ T. H. LEATHER	„ A. WOOD

Co-opted Members

Dr. E. R. CARTER Local Medical Committee for the County Palatine of Chester
 Dr. E. WARDLE, National Health Service, Local Dental Committee
 Miss T. E. DUDLEY, Cheshire County Nursing Association
 Councillor W. S. HUXTABLE, Runcorn Divisional Executive for Education
 Mrs. C. EVANS
 Mrs E. A. ROYLE
 Mr J. D. WHITLEY

Officers

Clerk to the Committee: Mr. T. J. Lewis

Divisional Medical Officer: E. N. Hillman Gray, L.R.C.P. & S., L.M., D.P.H.

**CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
RUNCORN DIVISIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE**

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
DIVISIONAL MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1955**

INTRODUCTION

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
RUNCORN DIVISIONAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present this my Annual Report dealing with those portions of the Sections of Part III of the National Health Act, 1946, for which this Committee is responsible.

As in previous years the report is sub-divided into the various sections of the Act and gives details of the work carried out during the year.

The Welfare Centres in the Division were well attended and at the Day Nursery there was an increase of 3 in the average daily attendance, as compared with the previous year.

Three new selling points for the distribution of Welfare Foods were opened during the year at Alvanley, Manley and Moore.

The year under review was the first complete year that the ambulance service was operated from the Divisional ambulance depot, and I am pleased to be able to report that it was possible to make a reduction in the number of journeys made, and also in the total mileage for the year.

Every effort was made during the year to give publicity to the need for vaccination against smallpox and immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough.

The scheme of B.C.G. Vaccination was continued during the year, and it is pleasing to note that 85% of parents consented to their children being vaccinated.

The demand on the domestic help service continued to increase, particularly on account of the number of aged persons requiring the services of a domestic help whose need for help continues indefinitely. In view of the demand on the Hospital Authorities for admission of chronic sick patients to hospital, this service is most valuable in helping to look after the old people in their homes for as long as is possible. During part of the year there was a shortage of domestic helps to attend cases, particularly in the Grappenhall area, but during the last few weeks the position improved.

My thanks are due to the Chairman and Members of the Divisional Health Committee for their support and help to me on all occasions.

The co-operation and assistance of the County Medical Officer and his staff, the Clerk to the Divisional Health Committee, and also the staff in my Divisional Health Office, was greatly appreciated by me in the carrying out of my various duties.

I beg to remain,

*Town Hall, Runcorn
March, 1956*

Your obedient Servant,
E. N. HILLMAN GRAY

SECTION 22

CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

There are eight child Welfare Centres in the Division, three of which are held in County owned premises (Runcorn, Frodsham and Stockton Heath) and five of which are held in premises rented by the County Council for the actual Sessions (Antrobus, Grappenhall, Helsby, Kingsley and Weston Point).

The Infant Welfare Centres are as follows:—

Antrobus	Parish Hall	First and Third Wednesdays of each month at 2 p.m.
Frodsham	Welfare Centre, The Rock	Alternate Tuesdays at 2 p.m.
Grappenhall	Methodist Sunday School	Tuesdays at 2 p.m.
Helsby	British Insulated Callenders' Cables Works Recreation Room	Alternate Tuesdays at 2 p.m.
Kingsley	Hurst Chapel	Second and Fourth Wednesdays at 2 p.m.
Runcorn	Welfare Centre Halton Road	Wednesdays 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.
Stockton Heath	Welfare Centre 65 Whitefield Road	Mondays 2 p.m.
Weston Point	Conservative Hall	First and Third Thursdays of month at 2 p.m.

The Child Welfare Centre for Weston Point was opened on 21st April, 1955, and the clinics were well attended.

In addition to Infant Welfare Clinics, Orthopaedic, Ophthalmic, Dental and Minor Ailments Clinics are held at the Frodsham, Runcorn and Stockton Heath centres during the month, and at Runcorn, Ante- and Post-Natal Clinics are also held each Thursday at 10 a.m. A Toddlers Clinic on the first Thursday of the month, and

Physiotherapy and Speech Therapy Clinics are held during the month. A Speech Therapy Clinic was commenced on 5th December 1955 at the Stockton Heath Welfare Centre, and will be held each Thursday.

The Committee inspected the Welfare Centres at Runcorn, Frodsham and Stockton Heath, and the Day Nursery, Runcorn, on the annual inspection of County owned and rented properties, and attention was given to alterations, repairs and replacements required. Work on the lay-out of the gardens at the Runcorn Welfare Centre was commenced during the year.

Day Nursery

There is one Day Nursery in the Division, situated in Okell Street, Runcorn. The Matron and staff have again to be congratulated on their excellent work.

During the year the average daily attendance of the Nursery was 26, an increase of 3 on the previous year. In the December quarter of the year, the attendances at the Nursery were exceptionally good, the average daily attendance being 31.

Attendances at the various clinics held at the Welfare Centres and for the Day Nursery are given in the following tables:

A. MOTHERS' CLINICS

					<i>New Cases</i>	<i>Total Attendances</i>
Ante-natal	....	....	....	....	171	662
Post-natal	....	....	....	....	2	2
Dental:—						
Pre-natal	....	....	....	....	10	18
Nursing mothers		....	....	....	36	101
Dentures supplied		....	....	....		24

B. YOUNG CHILDREN'S CLINICS

(i) <i>Infant welfare</i>					<i>New Cases</i>	<i>Total Attendances</i>
To 1 year	....	....	....	....	766	6449
1 to 2 years		....	....	....		1084
2 to 5 years		....	....	....		751
(ii) <i>Specialist</i>						
Ophthalmic (under 5)	....			....	15	53
Dental treatment (under 5)				....	46	58

B. (i) Welfare Centres

	<i>New Cases</i>		<i>Total Attendances</i>		
	0—1		0—1	1—2	2—5
Antrobus	9		87	66	70
Frodsham	85		619	119	103
Grappenhall	108		1119	138	75
Helsby	59		528	133	100
Kingsley	27		235	59	122
Runcorn	244		2201	359	257
Stockton Heath	144		1244	166	23
Weston Point	90		416	44	1
TOTALS	766		6449	1084	751

B. (ii) Ophthalmic Clinics

		<i>New Cases</i>		<i>Total Attendances</i>
Frodsham		10		29
Runcorn		22		44
Stockton Heath		2		11
Totals		34		84

(iii) Day Nursery, Runcorn

		<i>Average No. Attending</i>	<i>Total Attendances</i>
Age 0—2 years		8	1964
2—5 years		18	4708

SALE OF BRANDED WELFARE FOODS — The sale of proprietary brands of Welfare Foods at Antrobus, Kingsley, Runcorn and Weston Point is carried out through my office. During the year the total sales amounted to £614. 15s. 8d.

At the Frodsham, Helsby, Grappenhall and Stockton Heath Clinics, the sale of Welfare Foods is carried out by Voluntary Societies.

DISTRIBUTION OF WELFARE FOODS — M.O.F. — During the year 3 new distribution points were opened in the Division at the following addresses:

Post Office, Alvanley on the 24th October 1955.

Post Office, Manley on the 24th October 1955.

Post Office Moore on the 1st March 1955.

The following are details of the distribution points and commodities sold during the year.

<i>Centre</i>	<i>Commodities</i>				
	<i>N.D. Milk</i>	<i>Half Cream</i>	<i>Cod Liver Oil</i>	<i>A. & D. Capsules</i>	<i>Orange Juice</i>
Runcorn	12162	348	3057	1058	14324
Alvanley	17	—	9	1	25
Antrobus	202	—	108	12	398
Frodsham	2588	113	697	352	4456
Grappenhall	1058	—	475	154	2551
Halton	284	—	197	33	854
Helsby	909	77	290	106	2119
Kingsley	266	—	127	41	716
Manley	24	—	6	2	23
Moore	549	—	62	37	430
Norley	244	—	105	30	513
Preston Brook	451	—	110	28	532
Stockton Heath	1552	49	444	177	2173
Sutton Weaver	179	2	35	8	180
Thelwall	112	—	71	9	212
Weston	732	—	143	24	790
Weston Point	2267	—	398	153	1959
Whitley	385	—	60	9	416
TOTAL ISSUES:	23981	589	6394	2234	32671
Issues to Institutions	10	NIL	72	NIL	360
TOTALS FOR DIVISION:	23991	589	6466	2234	33031

SECTION 23 — MIDWIFERY

Under this section the Committee are responsible for:—

- (i) Provision, where necessary, of accommodation for midwives and the maintenance, repair and alterations required for such premises.
- (ii) Provision of transport for midwives where necessary in cases of emergency.

During the year the Runcorn Rural District Council granted to the Cheshire County Council the tenancy of No. 10 Cedar Avenue, Stockton Heath, for accommodation of a midwife for the Stockton Heath area.

Apart from the Midwife residing in No. 10 Stanley Villas and No. 30 Heath Road Crescent, Runcorn, and No. 10 Cedar Avenue, Stockton Heath, all other County Midwives in the Division reside in property under arrangements made by themselves, and for which this Committee have no responsibility with regard to repairs, etc.

During the year the Committee inspected the County owned and

rented midwives' property, and repairs requiring attention were dealt with. The Committee agreed to the erection of a garage at No. 10 Cedar Avenue, Stockton Heath, for housing the midwife's car.

Transport and medical requisites were provided as and when required.

The Midwives are doing good work in the homes where home confinements are required.

SECTION 24 — HEALTH VISITING

The Committee are also responsible for housing accommodation for Health Visitors, but with the exception of the Health Visitor who has taken up the accommodation of the first floor flat at No. 10 Stanley Villas, Runcorn, all Health Visitors in the Division reside in property under arrangements made by themselves and for which this Committee have no responsibility with regard to repairs, etc.

In view of the development of housing estates in the rural area of the Division, particularly the Appleton district, the work of the Health Visitors has greatly increased, and the Committee recommended the County Health Committee to increase the establishment of Health Visitors for the Division by one, in order to allow a re-distribution of duties to ensure a resumption of all essential services.

The Health Visitors are to be congratulated on their good "all round" work in the homes, Welfare Centres, etc.

SECTION 25 — HOME NURSING

With the exception of the two district nurses in Runcorn and one District Nurse/Midwife at Budworth and Helsby who reside in properties under arrangements made by themselves and for which this Committee have no responsibility, the remainder now reside in County owned or rented property.

The Committee inspected all County owned or rented property in the Division, and action was taken regarding any alterations, repairs or renewals requiring attention.

During the year the following work to Nurses' Homes was completed:—

Tarmacadamming of drive to Nurse's Home, Norley.

Provision of Septic Tank for Nurse's Home, Daresbury.

Clearing and lay-out of garden, 3 Beverley Avenue, Appleton.

Provision of garage, 3 Beverley Avenue, Appleton.

The District Nurses provide good service to all in the homes, working in co-operation with the various General Practitioners.

SECTION 26 — VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

Every effort has again been made during the year to bring to the notice of parents and guardians the necessity of having their children vaccinated against smallpox and immunised against diphtheria and whooping cough.

A register is maintained of all births in the Division and if a record is not received that a child has been vaccinated at the age of 6 months, a letter is sent to the parents strongly advising them to have their child vaccinated. A similar course is also taken regarding immunisation when a child is one year of age, in the case of those in whom immunity has not been carried out at 6 — 9 months.

In addition, publicity has been given to this subject by posters, periodic advertisements in the local press, and the health visitors have discussed the question with mothers when making their home visits.

Special immunisation sessions were held by me at schools in the Division, 73 children being given primary injections, and 318 reinforcing injections.

The figures set out in the following tables, compiled from record cards received from medical practitioners, show the number of vaccinations and immunisations carried out during the year. For comparison purposes, the figures for the previous year are also given.

Vaccination

			<i>Welfare Centres</i>	<i>Doctor's Surgery</i>	<i>Patients' Homes</i>	<i>Total</i>
Primary	....	1955	98	295	43	436
	....	1954	93	321	84	498
Re-vaccination	....	1955	1	63	6	70
	....	1954	1	61	5	67

Immunisation — Primary

			<i>Welfare Centres</i>	<i>Doctor's Surgery</i>	<i>Patients' Homes</i>	<i>School Clinic</i>	<i>Total</i>
Diphtheria	....	1955	—	102	2	73	177
	....	1954	15	114	28	137	294
Whooping Cough	....	1955	3	26	1	—	30
	....	1954	15	6	4	—	25
Combined Whooping Cough/Diphtheria		1955	248	437	27	—	712
		1954	161	399	39	—	599

Immunisations — Reinforcing Injections

Diphtheria	....	....	1955	17	75	2	318	412
			1954	32	140	36	467	675
Whooping Cough	....		1955	—	1	—	—	1
			1954	—	2	—	—	2
Combined Whooping Cough/Diphtheria			1955	19	30	9	—	58
			1954	4	40	1	—	45

SECTION 27 — AMBULANCE AND TRANSPORT SERVICE

The year under review is the first complete year that the ambulance service has been operated from the Divisional ambulance station and the service has operated quite smoothly. The greatest difficulty has been the shortage of vehicles. The Commer ambulance has been off the road for various periods during the year for repairs, and it has been necessary to give quite a large number of journeys to contractors. The Committee recommended to the County Health Committee that a new ambulance be supplied to replace the Commer, and that the establishment of vehicles should be increased by one clinic ambulance, and it is hoped that these vehicles will be supplied during the coming year; these are urgently required, also the addition to the establishment of one driver/mechanic. Austin ambulance LLG 508 was loaned from another Division for a short period during the year when major repairs were being carried out to the Commer ambulance.

The alterations to the ambulance station were commenced in December and it hoped that the work will be completed early in the new year.

The following are details of the journeys made during the year:

Details of Journeys carried out Direct by Ambulance Station

	<i>Morris FLG 492</i>	<i>Bedford PTU 296</i>	<i>Commer MTU 731</i>	<i>Bedford Clinic TLG 528</i>	<i>Bedford Clinic TMA 444</i>	<i>Austin LLG 508 (on loan)</i>	<i>Total for Stn.</i>
Emergencies	139	327	56	52	58	1	633
Maternity	52	173	8	22	18	2	275
Accidents	21	136	10	11	11	2	191
Ord. Removals	178	171	99	24	26	7	505
Sitting Cases	1402	506	1298	1952	2054	185	7397
Infectious Diseases	10	2	43	26	5	2	88
Total Patients	1802	1315	1514	2087	2172	199	9089
Total Journeys	659	986	551	868	887	76	4030
Mileage	18689	21442	14902	28227	29619	1811	114690
Petrol-Galls.	1549	1399½	1324½	1102	1198½	119½	6693
Oil-Galls.	22	13	25	30	20	1	111
Average M.P.G.	12	15.3	11.2	25.6	24.7	15.1	17.1

Details of Journeys Carried Out by Contractors

	<i>Total No. Journeys</i>	<i>No. of Patients</i>	<i>No. of Accident and Emergency Journeys</i>	<i>Total Mileage</i>
Ambulance	72	77	72	1239
Cars	1188	2033	22	31796

Details of all journeys made during the year as compared with the previous twelve months are as follows:

	<i>Journeys</i>	<i>Patients</i>	<i>Emergencies</i>	<i>Mileage</i>
Ambulance Journeys:				
1955	2344	4907	999	58083
1954	1560	2885	801	43316
Sitting Case Journeys:				
1955	2943	6292	194	89642
1954	5141	8060	963	128229
Total all Journeys:				
1955	5287	11199	1193	147725
1954	6701	10945	1764	171545
Increase:	—	254	—	—
Decrease:	1414	—	571	23820

It is interesting to note that during the first complete year the service was operated from our own ambulance station, a considerable reduction was made in the number of journeys, and mileage.

The majority of patients in the Division requiring transport attend hospitals in Chester, Liverpool and Warrington, and the average mileage per journey for the year was 27.9 compared with 25.6 for the previous year. The increase is due to the fact that with the clinic ambulances it is possible to carry 6 persons, and the vehicles travel round the Division to collect patients from various areas, thereby increasing the mileage of each journey. When the majority of the journeys were made by cars, two separate journeys were made to collect the same number of patients.

The arrangements between the County Council and the Warrington Corporation, whereby the latter supplied ambulances for the conveyance of non-infectious cases from Stockton Heath and the surrounding district, were continued during the year.

No alteration was made in the establishment of personnel, and there were no staff changes during the year. Three drivers received Safe Driving Awards, and nine drivers obtained first aid certificates.

SECTION 28

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE

Tuberculosis

The Health Visitors were informed of all new cases and asked to visit and complete the environmental report sheet, and where the contacts of the patients had not attended the Chest Clinic for examination, they were advised to do so. Every effort has been made to persuade the contacts to attend for examination.

On receipt of the completed report sheets, these were carefully investigated by me, and where the housing conditions of the patients were such that it was advisable that they should be rehoused, the question was taken up with the Housing Departments of the Urban and Rural District Councils, and I am very pleased to report that both Councils again gave their sympathetic consideration to the re-housing of these cases, and in a large number of cases they were able to re-house the families. Where the housing accommodation was adequate the patients were strongly advised to occupy separate bedrooms, and in all cases advice was given on the precautions to be taken to prevent the spread of infection. Advice was also given to patients on how to obtain extra nourishment and assistance.

In all cases, enquiries were made to see whether it was possible to find the cause of infection.

The Mass Radiography Unit visited the Runcorn and Frodsham areas of the Division during the year, and although I have not yet received any official report from them I understand the attendances were good.

There was an increase of 19 in the notification of new cases reported during the year. This was not entirely due to the visit of the Mass Radiography Unit, but to the fact that more people nowadays attend at the Chest Clinics for chest x-rays, and through this it is possible for a patient found to have tuberculosis to receive early treatment.

The chest physicians at the Runcorn and Warrington Chest Clinics tested the child contacts of cases, and during the year 30 B.C.G. Vaccination were given in this connection.

When patients were admitted to Hospital, arrangements were made for a full disinfection of the premises to be carried out.

During the year a careful check was made with the Chest Physicians of all patients whose names appear on my Tuberculosis Register and after examination, it was possible to remove a number of patients from such register.

Details of cases during the period 1st January to 31st December, 1955, are as follows:

	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>		<i>Total</i>
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	
(a) Total number of cases on register—					
1st January, 1955	153	121	26	29	329
31st December, 1955	158	119	23	22	322
(b) Removals from register, 1st January to 31st December, 1955—					
Died	2	—	—	—	2
Left district	5	15	1	2	23
Recovered	14	10	5	7	36
Lost sight of	2	—	1	—	3
	23	25	7	9	64
(c) Number of notifications received, 1st January to 31st December, 1955—					
New cases	20	12	3	1	36
Transfers	6	10	1	1	18
Restored to register	2	1	—	—	3
	28	23	4	2	57

B.C.G. Vaccination

During the year parents of children in the 13 years age group attending schools in the Division were given the opportunity of having them given B.C.G. Vaccination, and I am pleased to report that there was a very good response, approximately 85% agreeing to the vaccination of their children.

The following schools were visited during the period under review:

Balfour Road Secondary Modern School, Runcorn.

Holy Trinity C. of E. School, Runcorn.

Parish C. of E. School, Runcorn.

St. Edwards R.C. School, Runcorn.

Halton C. of E. School.

Helsby County Grammar Schools (Girls and Boys).

Helsby Secondary Modern School.

Frodsham Secondary Modern School.

Kingsley Secondary Modern School.

Stockton Heath Secondary Modern School.

Stockton Lodge Private School.

Marlfield Private School, Grappenhall.

Belmont College, Gt. Budworth.

Details of the number of forms issued, tests carried out and B.C.G. given are as follows:

BEFORE VACCINATION

No. of consent forms issued	....	....	....	706
No. of children for whom consent received	....	....	....	606
No. of patch tests by tuberculin jelly	....	....	....	538
No. positive to patch test	....	....	....	156
No. Mantoux tested	....	....	....	415
No. positive to Mantoux Test	....	....	....	43
No. vaccinated with B.C.G.	....	....	....	361

AFTER B.C.G. VACCINATION

No. having follow-up Mantoux (8 weeks)	....	....	339
No. positive to follow-up Mantoux (8 weeks)	....	....	332
No. positive to follow-up Mantoux (12 months)	....	....	367
No. negative to follow-up Mantoux (12 months)	....	....	32

As a result of the high percentage of Mantoux positive cases in school children in Frodsham, Helsby, Kingsley and District, the Runcorn Rural District Council have recommended to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food that the whole of the Runcorn Rural District be made a specified area, i.e. only T.T. tested or heat treated milk will be sold for human consumption. It is hoped this will be accomplished soon.

Mass x-ray was also extended to all teachers and staff of schools where a high Mantoux rate was found; no infectious lung cases were discovered.

Care of the Aged

The care and after-care of old people living on their own has continued to be a most difficult problem, but in conjunction with General Practitioners and Health Visitors, assistance has been given to have cases admitted to a suitable hospital or home for the aged, or where this has not been possible, the provision of a domestic help and a visit by the District Nurse.

Whenever there are relations and friends, contact is made with them, if required, so that they can be reminded of their responsibility in the care of the old people and more help could and should be given by relatives in many cases.

As previously mentioned, patients are encouraged to arrange for someone to live in whenever possible and practicable.

The "Over 60" Club in Runcorn and the "Darby and Joan" Club in Frodsham do very good work in the care of old people, and their work could, with advantage, be copied elsewhere in the Division. In addition, Women's Institutes, Townswomen's Guilds and Church Organisations take an interest in old people's welfare, working in conjunction with ward and parish councils.

The Central Council of Social Service, Warrington, has arranged for their voluntary assistants to visit old people living on their own in the Runcorn and Stockton Heath districts. They visit the old people at regular intervals and take books, periodicals, etc., and assist them in any way possible.

The volunteers visiting old people and/or disabled have carried out very good work with discretion.

Much valuable assistance has been given to the old people by these voluntary workers.

Loan of Nursing Equipment

Supplies of nursing equipment, apparatus, etc., are available for loan to patients from stocks supplied to district nurses, in accordance with the scale agreed to by the Cheshire County Council and my Committee. A reserve stock is also kept at my Divisional Office.

A patient borrowing equipment under the above heading is required to pay a deposit, which is refunded when the article is returned in good condition.

There has been a steady demand for this equipment during the year, and this service is much appreciated by those concerned.

Convalescent Home Treatment

The Committee has power to send persons in need of rest but not nursing care, to convalescent homes. During the year, six patients were sent to convalescent homes as follows:

Two to Women's Convalescent Home, Llandudno, for 2 weeks.

Two to Ellen Gonnor Home, Hoylake, for '6 weeks.

One to Ellen Gonnor Home, Hoylake, for 4 weeks.

One to West Hill Convalescent Home, Southport, for 2 weeks.

The patients are required to pay towards the cost of their stay in these homes, according to the scale laid down by the County Council. The full cost is usually beyond the means of most cases.

Handicapped Persons

A Register of Handicapped Persons is kept in my office and the patients are visited by the health visitors to ascertain what assistance can be given to these persons, working in conjunction with the various voluntary societies, etc.

Home Occupation

In a few cases where patients are suffering from prolonged disability, resultant upon injury or sickness, arrangements have been made, in conjunction with the chest physicians and/or the patient's medical practitioner, and the British Red Cross Society for the supply of materials and apparatus for home occupation.

The patients have found great interest in the work and a new pleasure in life.

Some health visitors have given the greatest assistance to me in this important matter.

It is hoped to increase this service during 1956 for cases requiring occupational therapy in the home, via health visitors, etc., especially for tuberculosis cases.

Health Education

Copies of my pamphlet "Commonsense Preventive Measures Against Disease" have been widely distributed throughout the Division, and posters on health education matters have been forwarded to shops, etc., for display.

Pamphlets are also left at homes where there are cases of infectious disease, giving details of the precautions to be taken to avoid the spread of infection.

Cancer Research

The detailed enquiry into Cancer incidence and pathogenesis which is being conducted by Dr. Percy Stocks on behalf of the British Empire Cancer Campaign, has continued during the year.

The Health Visitors are supplied with comprehensive enquiry forms for all deaths from cancer, of residents in the Division. In certain cases the Sanitary Inspectors are asked to take soil samples and complete report sheets on same.

During the year enquiries into 119 cases were made.

It is hoped, through these enquiries, to trace hitherto unsuspected sources of one of the greatest cause of death today.

The assistance of health visitors and Sanitary Inspectors has been greatly appreciated.

SECTION 29 — DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

The number of domestic helps employed at 31st December 1955 was 34.

The number of cases provided with domestic helps during the year increased from 145 to 149. Although this is only four cases more than the previous year, the demand on the service greatly increased, the number of aged persons receiving help increasing from 89 to 104, and the cases of illness decreasing from 34 to 19. There was also an increase in the number of confinement and Tuberculosis patients receiving help.

Domestic Helps are provided for confinements cases and cases of illness, for an average period of two weeks, whereas with the aged persons and tuberculosis patients group, the need for the weekly supply of help continues for many months, and in many cases for years.

One of the greatest difficulties during the year has been in obtaining suitable domestic helps, especially in the Stockton Heath and Grappenhall district, and at times it was necessary to reduce the number of hours help was supplied so that no patients would be without help. An advertisement was inserted in the local press for domestic helps in the Stockton Heath area on two occasions but only one application was received.

As the population of aged persons is increasing each year the demand on this service will also increase.

Most old people do not wish to enter hospital or Homes for the Aged, but to remain in their own homes as long as possible, and every effort is made, with the aid of this service and additional help from relatives and neighbours, visits by members of voluntary societies, and, when necessary, visits by the District Nurse, to make this possible. This action also helps to relieve the heavy demand on hospital authorities for this type of patient, which has greatly increased during the past year.

With the aid of the Domestic Help Service it has certainly been possible to look after quite a large number of patients, who, without help, would have had to be admitted to a hospital or Home.

The following table shows the types of cases supplied with help during 1954 and 1955:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Confinement Cases</i>	<i>Tuberculosis Cases</i>	<i>Aged Persons</i>	<i>Cases of Other Illness</i>
1955	20	6	104	19
1954	19	3	89	34

All applications for the services of domestic help were carefully investigated, and only where help was absolutely necessary was this supplied.

At the 31st December 1955 there were 78 protracted cases remaining on the register, an increase of 5 on the previous year.

The service is not free to patients but subject to the County Council Scale of Assessment.

Where any hardship is claimed after the assessment, the case is referred to the Divisional Health Committee for their decision in the matter. During the year 4 cases were submitted to the Committee for consideration, and reductions made in all cases.

